

FISCAL NOTE
SB 1406 - HB 1641

March 14, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Provides injuries involving the total and permanent loss of sight of both eyes or the loss of both arms at the shoulder or complete and permanent loss of mental faculties, and for the complete permanent loss of hearing in both ears, to be non-scheduled, body as a whole injury and would allow permanent total disability benefits to be awarded for such injuries in appropriate cases.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000/Claims Award Fund

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

Estimate assumes:

- a potential increase in state expenditures to the extent that a state employee files a workers compensation claim that is covered under the provisions of the bill would receive benefits for an extended period of time. Currently claimants suffering a permanent total loss of sight or loss of mental faculties are eligible for 400 weeks of benefits. Claimants with complete and total loss of hearing are eligible for 150 weeks of benefits. The bill would provide benefits to age 65 or for 260 weeks if the injury occurred after age 60. The number of claims that would be filed by state employees and the resulting increased cost for such claims cannot be determined but is estimated to exceed \$100,000.
- a potential increase in local government expenditures to the extent that local government employees file claims that come under the provisions of the bill.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

SB 1406 - HB 1641